

Timely Tidbits ...

5 To Vie for 2 Seats on Romulus School Board

Five residents will be competing for two available seats on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education, according to Rendell Wooden, elections clerk for the City of Romulus. The candidates – incumbents Cheryle Buckley and April Frayer, and challengers Keenan Brown, Lureca Eldridge, and Robert McLachlan – will face off in the district's annual election, to be held on Tuesday, May 5.

Soul Food & Jazz Dinner Celebrates Black History

Romulus Middle School (37300 Wick Road), in cooperation with the Romulus Community Schools community, will host a Soul Food & Jazz Dinner at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25. This year's event will feature performances by the Romulus High School Jazz Band and various local church groups, as well as dinner served by local dignitaries.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens (age 55 and older), and \$2 for children 12 and under. For ticket sales and other information, call Rita Talley at the Middle School (734-532-1703).

Italian Dinner Buffet

The Belleville Rotary Club is holding an Italian Dinner Buffet fund-raiser at the Van Buren Eagles Hall (9961 Beck Road) on Tuesday, February 24, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The all-you-can-eat menu will include both vegetarian spaghetti and spaghetti with meat sauce, fettuccini alfredo, Italian wedding soup, Caesar salad, roll with butter, and beverage.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (age 62 and up), and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Spring Storytime Set

Parents of kids ages three to five may choose the morning (10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, February 25–April 1) or evening (6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, February 24–March 31) session of a free storytime program being offered by the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road). Preregistration is required. Call 734-942-7589. □

Geiss Supports Plan To Ban Foreclosures for 90 Days



Representative Douglas A. Geiss

State Representatives Douglas A. Geiss (D–Taylor) and Gino H. Polidori (D–Dearborn) are among those who have thrown their support behind a House Democrats' plan to keep more Michigan families in their homes by putting a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures for struggling homeowners who seek help.

"As a state and a community, we are

facing extraordinarily tough times right now, which means we need extra protectors in place to help stop the foreclosure epidemic," said Polidori. "Encouraging homeowners and lenders to work together to find a solution other than foreclosure is the best thing we can do to protect our working families. By giving people just a little more time, we can help countless families hold on to the American Dream."

The House Democrats' plan, unveiled on Tuesday, provides a 90-day reprieve from foreclosure for homeowners who commit to working with their lender and a housing counselor. Counselors are available through the Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Michigan ranks seventh in the nation for foreclosures, according to RealtyTrac. More than 145,000 properties were in foreclosure in 2008 – a 21% increase from 2007 and a 108% increase from 2006. In January of this year alone, 11,418 foreclosures were reported in Michigan, 3,361 of which were in Wayne County (one out of every 249 housing units, according to RealtyTrac).

"It's discouraging to drive through our neighborhoods and see so many homes standing vacant – many of them lost to foreclosure," said Geiss. "Home foreclosures hurt entire communities, not just the families that lost their homes. Foreclosures drive down property values and invite crime in abandoned homes. This plan will fight back against foreclosures and protect our communities as we work to get our economy back on the right track." □

WCAA Honored

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) has been named "Airport Sponsor of the Year" by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics and Freight Services.

An award plaque, presented on February 5 at the Michigan Airport Conference, reads, in part, "... in recognition of excellent service provided to aviation through the transformation of Detroit Metropolitan Airport into a world-class international airport, the development of numerous safety-enhancement projects at Willow Run Airport, and the implementation of state-of-the-art environmental protection measures and neighborhood compatibility programs at both airports."

"At the state level, we have watched Detroit Metro Airport undergo a dramatic transformation into one of the world's premier air transport hubs," said Bureau director Rob Abent. "It is consistently voted as one of the best international airport facilities by both travelers and industry experts alike."

"Willow Run Airport is the perfect complement to Detroit Metro, as a major air cargo, corporate, charter, and general aviation hub," he added. "At both airports, the WCAA has achieved world-leader status, and is well-deserving of this recognition."

WCAA CEO Lester Robinson noted, "This recognition was a surprise, but a welcome one. It is both gratifying and humbling to be recognized for the many hours, months, and years of persistent dedication by WCAA management and staff to transform these airports into safe, efficient, air transportation hubs and economic development powerhouses." □

Kennedy Band Seeks Donations for D.C. Trip to March in National Parade

Taylor's John F. Kennedy High School Band has been honored with an invitation from President Barack Obama to march in the National Memorial Day Parade on May 25 in Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, current tough economic times and financial concerns loom large over the band's hope of marching.

The band members and their boosters are attempting to raise at least \$30,000 toward the trip. To that end, they are holding a Pasta Dinner Fund-raiser and Show at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 26, in the Kennedy High School cafeteria. The dinner will include mostaccioli, salad, roll with butter, dessert, and beverage. Admission is \$6 per person; \$5 for senior citizens. Children under 3 are free. Music will be provided by members of the Kennedy Band.

Charley Johnson, past president of the Kennedy Band Boosters and a 1980 KHS graduate, said there are a few hurdles to get through in order for all the band members to participate. Many of the students do not have the financial means necessary to pay the estimated \$700 round-trip price tag, so the band is hoping the Taylor community can help.

"These kids are doing everything they can to raise money fast in order to make the trip down to Washington D.C.," Johnson said.

Additional donations to the fund-raising effort are being accepted by the Taylor Public School Foundation for Educational Excellence, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting and supplementing district programs and projects to improve the quality of education in Taylor. The foundation will accept donations on behalf of the KHS band through the end of May.

All donations to the foundation are tax deductible.

To make a donation, write "Kennedy Band" in the memo portion of a check payable to the Taylor Public School Foundation for Excellence, and mail it to 23033 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180, Attention Bethany Iverson.

For dinner tickets or more information on making a contribution to the Kennedy band, call Johnson at 313-304-2173.

Taylor Mayor and Kennedy High School graduate Cameron G. Priebe nominated the band for the honor of marching in Washington, D.C. □

Letter to the Editor

Resident Unsatisfied with Cemetery Policies

To the Editor:

I watched the Romulus City Council meeting of February 9. I heard Councilman Harry Crout tell Mayor Alan R. Lambert that he received a number of phone calls complaining about Romulus Memorial Cemetery's gates being locked on weekends.

Councilman Crout told Mayor Lambert that the gates were locked at 1:30 p.m. one recent Saturday afternoon, and still locked at 9:30 a.m. the following day. He also told Mayor Lambert that, two weeks prior to that, on a Saturday at 2 p.m., a person was in the cemetery paying her respects to her loved ones when a police officer pulled in and told her that she had to leave so the gate could be locked.

The Mayor's reply was that the next

time a resident calls a councilman about a locked cemetery gate, he/she should tell the caller to contact the Police Department and have them open it. It's a shame that Mayor Lambert didn't say he would take care of the matter.

It's my understanding that when Bill Oakley was mayor, he put \$400,000 in a special account to build a small chapel in the cemetery. When the new administration took over, they took the \$400,000 out of the special fund, put it in the general fund, and spent it.

It would have been nice to have a small chapel in our cemetery where residents could pray for their loved ones.

Susie Lambert

Romulus □

Guest Commentary

Health Insurance for Michigan's Children

By U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)

Americans are fortunate to have some of the best medical facilities and services in the world. Yet, shamefully, there are over 45 million uninsured people in our country, of which 8.7 million are children. Without insurance, these children do not have the access they need to America's world-class medical services. They and their parents often times wait far too long to receive the care they need and wind up in the emergency room, and in many instances are left to struggle with no care at all.

Earlier this month, the new Congress and new administration took action to extend health care coverage by expanding the successful State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to cover more uninsured children. Although President Bush had twice vetoed the bipartisan CHIP expansion, it once again passed through Congress with broad bipartisan support to become one of the first bills signed into law by President Obama.

The program, which was created in 1997, currently provides health-care benefits to more than 7.4 million children. More than 90% of those children come from families with incomes 200% below the poverty level, which is less than \$35,000 a year for a family of three.

Michigan's CHIP program, called MICHild, has shown impressive results. Michigan currently has the second lowest rate of uninsured children in the nation, trailing only Massachusetts, which provides universal health care coverage. Approximately 50,000 Michigan children are covered under CHIP every month. In the past 12 years, we have seen that CHIP coverage leads to better access to preventative and

primary care services, better quality of care, better health outcomes, and improved performance in school.

But there are still 158,000 uninsured children in Michigan, and the recent decline in employer-sponsored health-care coverage is threatening the access to private health-care coverage for many more children. The expansion of CHIP is expected to cover 80,000 additional kids in Michigan, and it will cover an additional four million children nationwide.

A single mother from Michigan contacted my office in support of CHIP. She wrote, "I could not afford the family insurance that my employer offered, and definitely could not afford private [insurance]. Without this insurance I do not know what I would have done." The MICHILD program provided "options, doctors instead of emergency rooms, less time missed at work and school." No child should have to miss school or rely on emergency room care due to lack of health insurance. Preventative care and access to a pediatrician are critical for children to grow and thrive.

Providing access to affordable, quality health care to everyone in America is a moral issue. No person, young or old, should be denied access to adequate health care, and the expanded and improved Children's Health Insurance Program is an important step toward achieving that goal.

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Basham Calls on Colleagues To Pledge Support of Smoke-free Workplace Laws

State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) has called on his fellow lawmakers to sign a pledge to support smoke-free workplace legislation in Michigan. Basham, who has been fighting for smoke-free workplaces for over a decade, is the sponsor of Senate Bill 114, which would institute a statewide policy that he believes would protect Michigan workers from secondhand smoke.

"Secondhand smoke exposure continues to be a major health risk for patrons and workers alike, and a major strain on state-funded medical care later, as people face health issues like asthma, emphysema and cancer," said Basham. "It's also good for the economy, as Michigan workers would no longer have to choose between breathing in secondhand smoke and getting a paycheck."

"With the overwhelming public support of this issue and the continued findings on the negative impacts of secondhand smoke, we need to make smoke-free workplaces a top priority, and I encourage my fellow lawmakers to do so," he added.

Basham has asked all of his fellow lawmakers to sign a pledge that they will work on the smoke-free workplaces issue. To hold the legislature accountable for protecting the health of Michigan workers, and make sure that the public knows who is and isn't acting in their best interest on this issue, Basham is making public the information on who has signed the pledge.

"People deserve to know why this issue still hasn't been addressed, and which of their lawmakers are trying to make progress on this," said Basham. "Based on the public support of this issue, there should be a lot more signatures on this pledge. I think people will be surprised – there are even doctors who haven't signed it."

"I encourage every worker and patron who is tired of inhaling the toxic fumes of secondhand smoke to contact their lawmaker and encourage them to sign this pledge."

Despite Basham's work to make Michigan workplaces smoke-free, the State has yet to implement such a policy.

"Michigan continues to opt to be the

'Great Late State,' as nearly all of the Midwest, and most recently, Virginia (a major stop on Tobacco Road) have passed smoke-free workplace laws," Basham said.

A complete list of who had and had not (as of February 18) signed Basham's smoke-free workplaces pledge, along with the language of the pledge, is included below. Basham is encouraging citizens to visit <http://senate.michigan.gov/SenatorInfo/find-your-senator.htm> as well as http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp to identify their legislators and contact their offices to encourage them to support smoke-free workplaces in Michigan.

Legislators who have already signed the pledge include:

Senators: Anderson, Barcia, Basham, Birkholz, Brater, Cherry, Clarke, Gleason, Hunter, Jacobs, Olshove, Patterson, Prusi, Scott, Switalski, Thomas, and Whitmer.

Representatives: Ball, Bauer, Constan, Coulouris, Dean, Ebli, Lindberg, Lipton, Liss, Lori, Melton, Miller, Neumann, P. Scott, Segal, Slavens, Smith, Valentine, and Warren.

Legislators who have not signed the pledge include:

Senators: Allen, Bishop, Brown, Cassis, Clark-Coleman, Cropsey, Garcia, George, Gilbert, Hardiman, Jansen, Jelinek, Kahn, Kuipers, McManus, Pappageorge, Richardville, Sanborn, Stamas, and Van Woerkom.

Representatives: Agema, Amash, Angerer, Barnett, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bolger, Boohee, L. Brown, T. Brown, Byrnes, Byrum, Calley, Caul, Clemente, Corriveau, Crawford, Cushingberry, Daley, Denby, DeShazor, Dillon, Donigan, Durhal, Elsenheimer, Espinoza, Geiss, Genetski, Gonzales, Green, Gregory, Griffin, Haase, Haines, Hammel, Hansen, Haugh, Havelman, Hildenbrand, Horn, Huckleberry, Jackson, Johnson, Rick Jones, Robert Jones, Kandrevas, Kennedy, Knollenberg, Kowall, Kurtz, Lahti, LeBlanc, Leland, Lemmons, Lund, Marleau, Mayes, McDowell, McMillin, Meadows, Meekhof, Meltzer, Moore, Moss, Nathan, Nerat, Opsommer, Pavlov, Pearce, Polidori, Proos, Roberts, Rocca, Rogers, R. Schmidt, W. Schmidt, Schuitmaker, Cook-Scott, Scripps, Sheltroun, Simpson, Slezak, Spade, Stamas, Stanley, Switalski, Tlaib, Tyler, Walsh, Womack, and Young. □

Business Luncheon

Linda Johnston, health services coordinator for Life Line Screening, will discuss "Strokes and Vascular Disease" as the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's Business Luncheon on Tuesday, March 17, at a location to be determined.

Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is at noon.

For more information, or for reservations, call 734-893-0694 or e-mail info@romuluschamber.com.

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Taylor Rotary Club's Annual Putt-Putt Golf Classic Is Open to the Public

Registration is still being accepted for the Rotary Club of Taylor's ninth annual Putt-Putt Golf Classic, set for 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, February 21, at Taylor Meadows Golf Club (25360 Ecorse Road, four blocks east of Beech Daly Road).

This year, the Rotary will introduce a Junior Golf Tournament – open to players ages 15 and younger – from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The event promises to be fun for the entire family, and all proceeds will support the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry and other charities in the community.

All guests will participate in a practice round of indoor miniature golf and a competitive round. The 18 golfers with the best scores will advance to the winners round.

In addition to golfing, participants will enjoy food, soft drinks, and entry in drawings for prizes, including a Nintendo Wii for participating juniors. Music and a cash bar will also be among the highlights.

The registration donation is \$45; \$20 for children 12 to 15; \$10 for children 10 and younger. To sign up, call 734-277-5435. Hole sponsorships are \$100.

Editor's note: The Rotary Club is seeking new members interested in making a difference in Taylor through participation in weekly luncheons and community-service initiatives, plus other programs with business and professional leaders throughout the community. For more information, visit www.taylorrotary.com. □

Metroparks Sweet on Maple Sugaring

Cure cabin fever this March with a taste of sap dripping from a maple tree during a maple sugaring program offered at five Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The sixth largest producer of maple syrup in the U.S., Michigan has a maple sugaring history that dates back to Native American times.

Maple Sugaring: Journey to the Sugar Bush (Hudson Mills Metropark, near Dexter; Saturdays and Sundays in March; 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and noon)

See how to tap trees, collect sap, and boil it into maple syrup. All-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, with real maple syrup, will be served at the Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the days the tours are offered. Guided tour: \$2 per person. Pancake breakfast: \$3.50 per child/\$5 per adult. Reservations required for the guided tour. Weekday programs (Wednesday through Friday) are available during March (by appointment) to schools and organized groups. For information/reservations, call Hudson Mills Metropark (734-426-8211 or 800-477-3191).

Maple's Sweet Story (Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center, near Milford/Brighton; Saturdays and Sundays in March)

Stop in for a hot breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon, then head to the sugarbush to see the maple sugaring process, including boiling down the sap, from noon to 3 p.m. An American Indian sugaring camp is also located within the woods. The breakfast menu includes pancakes, waffles, and more. Registration is not required for the weekend programs. Weekday programs (Tuesday through Friday) during March are available by appointment to schools and organized groups. For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Kensington Metropark at 1-800-477-3178 or 248-685-1561.

Maple Sugaring (Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center, near White Lake; Saturdays and Sundays, February 28, March 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29)

Learn the history of maple sugaring and take a hike out to the sugarbush. Dis-

cover how to choose and tap a sugar maple, then go to the sugar shack to see how the collected sap is boiled down to make maple syrup. Pre-registration is required; call for times. Weekday programs (Wednesday through Friday) during March are available by appointment to schools and organized groups. Weekend program fee: \$2 per person. For further information/registration contact the Indian Springs Nature Center at 1-800-477-3192 or 248-625-7280.

Maple Sugaring (Historic Center of Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township; Saturdays and Sundays, March 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22; 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.)

Learn the basics of making maple syrup, from tree identification and how to tap them, to boiling down the sap into syrup. Prior registration with payment of \$3 per person is required. Times do fill quickly, and walk-ins might not have a spot. The first Saturday, March 7, is open to Scout groups. The other dates are open to families and individuals. Thursday and Friday programs during March are available by appointment for school groups. For additional information or to register, call the Historic Center at either 1-800-477-3175 or 586-749-5997.

Pancake Supper (Willow Metropark Food Bar near New Boston; Friday, March 13; 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.)

Enjoy hot pancakes, sausage, and a beverage, along with a maple sugaring program. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$4 per child (ages 10 and under) and \$6 per adult. For more information or to register, call Oakwoods Metropark Nature Center at 1-800-477-3182 or 734-782-3956.

Maple Syrup Weekend (Willow Metropark Food Bar, near New Boston; Saturday, March 14; 10 a.m. and noon)

See the sap dripping from the maple trees, and learn the history of maple sugaring. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$4 per child (ages 10 and under) and \$6 per adult. For further information or to register, call the Oakwoods Metropark Nature Center at 1-800-477-3182 or 734-782-3956. □

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"I still have trouble believing that my client was only making 2% on those lousy CDs." Like most people, she was convinced there really wasn't any safe alternatives that would pay her any more without risking her nest egg. She had been dealing with her bank for over 17 years, and was simply stunned to find out that they wouldn't do any better than 2.23% on her CD, even though they were charging her over 15% on her credit card.

"They didn't even care that I had been such a loyal customer all these years." The sad truth is ... this scene is not that uncommon.

The bottom line is that most people put their money with banks because they want safety of their principle and because they're afraid of this roller coaster of a stock market. However, most people don't know that there are safe alternatives that pay you better returns and have tax advantages. If you are sick and tired of your 2% CDs earning such

pitiful interest, and are rightfully scared of the crazy and risky stock market, the answer to your frustrations just may be contained in this free report. This report is designed to help consumers find alternatives to CDs and the stock market that not only safely protect their nest eggs, but that also provide many tax advantages.

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Chamber Dinner Will Honor Willis

The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce has selected Reverend Arthur C. Willis, Sr., as its 24th Romulus Person of the Year. The announcement was made at the organization's monthly membership luncheon on January 27.

Willis, who first learned of his selection at the luncheon, said he was taken completely by surprise.

Although Willis is actually a resident of Oak Park, people often mistakenly assume that he lives in Romulus because of his extensive presence and involvement in the area. During his 18 years as pastor of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church, his commitment to community service has made him a fixture in the lives of many locals. Besides being president of the Romulus Christian Ministerial Association, Willis also is the president of the PEN (People Empowering a New Beginning) Enrichment Community Center; an advisory board member for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Romulus and the Romulus Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center; chairman of the Romulus Mayor's Drug Task Force; and an active member of the Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee.

He is also president of the Concerned Pastors and Ministers Council of Detroit & Vicinity, and is a chaplain for the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Detroit Public Schools.

Willis graduated from Detroit's Murray-Wright High School in 1971. He attended Wayne State and Michigan State universities, and received a degree from the Service Contract Association. He also attended the Birmingham Bible Institution, and graduated from Liberty Bible College with a degree in biblical counseling. Over the years, he has run his own insurance agency and worked in building maintenance, and currently co-owns (with his son, Arthur Jr.) a vacuum repair service in Detroit.

It was in March of 1988 that Willis



Reverend Arthur Willis

accepted his calling into the ministry under the leadership of Pastor J. H. Johnson, Jr., of Greater Middle Missionary Baptist Church. Willis was a faithful member, serving in numerous areas. He was ordained in 1989.

In September of that year, Reverend Willis was asked to visit the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church in Romulus. Trustee John White, Sr., and the church family placed him on their rotation. On February 1, 1990, the congregation elected Willis as their fourth pastor.

Reverend Willis and his wife Janice have been married for 37 years. They have five children - Stephanie, Arthur Jr., Chancuy, LaThomas, and Starr - and four grandchildren.

* * *

On Friday, April 3, the Chamber will hold a dinner to honor Reverend Willis and recognize his contributions to the community. The event will be held in the ballroom at the Romulus Athletic Center (35765 Northline Road), with a reception set for 6:30 p.m. and dinner to follow at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person.

For more information, call the Chamber at 734-893-0694. □

RPD Officer Sadler Promoted to Sergeant



During a brief ceremony held at Romulus City Hall on February 13, Officer Corey Sadler (second from right) of the Romulus Police Department was promoted to Sergeant. Among those on hand for the swearing in were (from left) Public Safety Director Charles Kirby, Mayor Alan R. Lambert; Sadler's son, Corey, Jr.; and Deputy Chief Michael St. Andre. Photo by R. E. Kadau

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Knight Appointed as City of Taylor Community Development Director

Debbie Knight, an 11-year employee of the City of Taylor, has been promoted to director of the Community Development Department.

Knight, age 40, is responsible for administering the City's portion of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Her roles include overseeing the home rehabilitation program that provides repairs to low- and moderate-income individuals and families, as well as dividing some of the funds among qualified agencies that serve Taylor.

Her newest duty is overseeing the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which has a \$2.5-million budget designed to stabilize neighborhoods in the face of rising residential foreclosures nationwide.

"I'm excited about the new challenges, and look forward to working on projects that improve our community and individual lives," Knight said.

Knight succeeds Marsha Dotson, who had held the dual roles of director of Community Development and Senior Services. Dotson remains the Senior Services director at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center. Knight's office is on the second floor of City Hall.

Prior to her promotion, Knight worked in the office of Mayor Cameron G. Priebe, serving as his administrative assistant and working with Housing coordinator Jon Belanger on the Taylor Cares home program. In her new role, Knight will continue to work with Belanger on the program, also known as the City's "dollar home program."

Knight, a 15-year Taylor resident, has been promoted five times, and prepared for



Debbie Knight

her current directorship by working in six departments: Water, Police, Building, Budget and Finance, and Human Resources, as well as the Mayor's Office.

While working full time, Knight earned a bachelor of science degree in business management. Since September, she has been seeking a master's degree in human resources administration at Central Michigan University.

"Debbie did a great job during her years of service in my office," Mayor Priebe said. "I've been impressed that she continued her education and earned a degree, and I thought it was a nice opportunity to promote from within."

Knight has been married for 20 years to her husband Daniel. They have two children: Danielle, age 17, and Derek, 15. Knight is also an active member of Taylor Free Methodist Church and a member of United Way for Southeastern Michigan - Wayne Local Community Committee. □

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BoBo Clowns Around at Family Night



Five-year-old Shivam Patel of Brownstown and Rockwood resident Larissa Lewandowski, age four, helped BoBo the Clown perform a magic trick at last month's Family Night in Taylor. Recreation programs coordinator Shirley Parrish said the program - which families enjoyed while feasting on pizza and pop - offered "an economical entertainment alternative in these tough financial times."

Photo by Kathleen Trent

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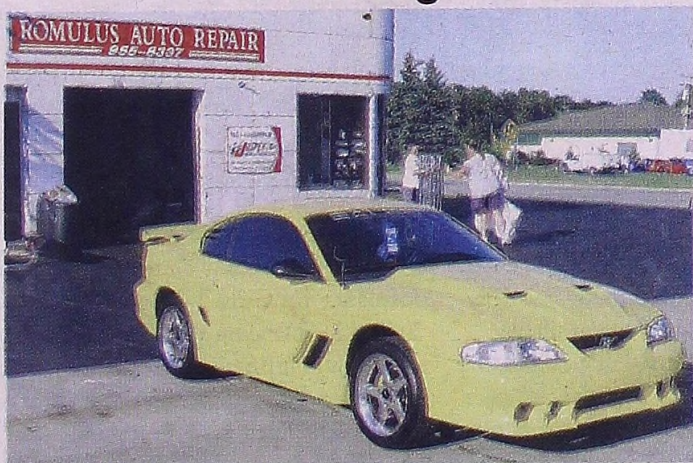
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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, February 27.

Belleville

Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!

The final two installments of a three-part Family Reading and Science program, featuring hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult), will be held at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) according to the following schedule:

- Planet Adventures! (Saturday, February 21, 3 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m.).

For information about the free programs, call 734-699-3291.

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser

Myrtle Lodge #89 Blue Wave Club (515 Main Street) will hold an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser to benefit the lodge and local charities on Saturday, February 28, from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6 to 10. Children under 6 eat free!

Irish Dinner Benefits Wayne County Fair Association

The Wayne County Fair Association will host an Irish Dinner fund-raiser at the County Fairgrounds (10871 Quirk Road) on Saturday, March 14, at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$7 for kids 12 and under.

For information, call Mary Zellner at 734-942-1684.

"Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com.

Huron Township

Polish Dinner

Willow United Methodist Church (36925 Willow Road) is holding its second annual Polish Dinner on Saturday, February 21. Carry-out food will be available starting at 4:30 p.m.; sit-down service will be from 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature kielbasa, sauerkraut, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, rye bread, dessert, and a beverage.

Suggested donation is \$9 per adult; \$5 for children 12 and under.

For information, call Reverend Mark Zender at 313-690-7248 or 734-654-9020.

Babysitting Class

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the YWCA, is offering a one-day babysitting class for ages 11 and up.

Topics covered will include responsibilities, home safety, accident prevention, first aid, personal safety, and infant care.

The class will be held at Renton Junior High School (31578 Huron River Drive) from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, February 23.

Cost is \$45. Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

Card-making Classes

One-day, seasonal card-making classes will have students creating three make-and-take projects featuring ribbon, brads, eyelets, vellum, stamps, and more. Classes will be held at 7 p.m. at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) on the following dates (subject to sufficient enrollment):

- March 26 – Easter, and
- May 6 – Friendship/Spring.

Cost is \$15. Advance registration is required.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

Nursery Registration

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery is accepting enrollment for its 2009–2010 three- and four-year-old classes.

The nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) – focuses on kindergarten readiness and social development, and offers art, music, exercise, and field trips.

For information, call Becki Graybeal at 734-299-3036.

Romulus

Pet Inoculations Fair

The City of Romulus will host its annual Pet Inoculation Fair at the Department of Public Works building (12600 Wayne Road) on Saturday, February 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Special discounts will be offered on license fees, microchip implantation, and nail-trimming services, as well as various tests and vaccinations.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter Fund by Dr. John Herman, Robin from Fluff 'n' Puff, and Sue from Cruisin' Clippers.

For information, call 734-942-7579.

Beyond Earth

The final two installments of a three-part Family Reading and Science program, featuring hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult), will be held at the Romulus Public Library

(11121 Wayne Road) according to the following schedule:

Scheduled topics include:

- Planet Adventures! (Monday, February 23, 6 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Monday, March 23, 6 p.m.).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Aloysius Catholic Church (37200 Neville Street) will host an All-You-Can-Eat Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday from February 27 through April 3.

Dinner includes choice of baked or fried fish; macaroni & cheese, seasoned potatoes, or French fries; green beans, cole slaw, roll, dessert, and beverage.

Cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children ages 4 to 10. Children 3 and under eat free (with adult purchase). Three-piece carry-out dinners will be available for \$8 each.

For information, call 734-941-5056.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (March 9),
- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street) will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Succeeding dinners will be held the second Saturday of each month.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For information, call 734-941-0736.

Taylor

Craft Time at the Library

Children in grades K–3 are invited to take part in the Taylor Community Library's monthly Craft Time program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Upcoming programs include:

- St. Patrick's Day (February 25), and
- Easter (March 25).

Each Wednesday program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Although there is no fee to attend, space is limited, and advance registration is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

Nature's Energy Education Day

The Downriver area's first commercial wind turbine will be one of the focuses of Nature's Energy Education Day, scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, at the Heritage Park Petting Farm (12803 Pardee Road, at Northline Road).

Guests will be able to check out the new wind turbine and solar panels on top of the farm's Welcome Center. In fact, children will be encouraged to help the farm name the turbine. Visitors will make crafts and hear stories about how to conserve energy. The farm's solar-powered toys will be on display. Meijer of Taylor has provided an "energy basket" full of things to use around the home. Louie the Lightning Bug – the mascot from DTE – will be at the farm from 3 to 5 p.m.

For information, call 734-374-5946.

"Meet with the Mayor" Night

The City of Taylor's next "Meet with Mayor Cameron Priebe" night will be held at Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard Road) on Monday, March 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. The open house program for Taylor residents is usually held on the Monday before the first council meeting of the month.

For more information, visit the City's Web site: www.cityoftaylor.com.

Big Band Ball Benefits Arts

Tickets are on sale now for the third annual "Big Band Ball" to be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Grecian Center (16300 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate).

The event, a benefit for the Taylor Friends of the Arts, is presented by the Taylor Cultural Arts Commission.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be open from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

The audience will enjoy a dinner performance by Girls' Night Out from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dancing to the big band music of Larry Huntington and The Skyliners is scheduled for 7:30 to 11 p.m. A silent auction is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m.

Tickets – available in advance only – are \$45 each or \$80 per couple. To charge tickets by phone, call 734-287-6318.

For information, call 734-374-3906 or visit www.TaylorArts.org. □

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Daddy-Daughter Dance



Derrick Mitchell (front) and daughter Riley, age 7, were among those who took part in "the train" during the City of Taylor Parks and Recreation Department's annual Daddy-Daughter Dance, held on February 7 at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center.



Having fun doing the macarena were (from left) 10-year-old Jillian Garcia, Bill Mascaro, and his daughter Kierstin, age 10.



(From left) Eight-year-old friends Cierra Jones, Alexis Benson, MaKenna Matte, Grace Peguese, and Brooke Hilyer get ready to hit the dance floor again. Photos by Dave Gorgon

"Growing Great Gardens" Offers Info for the Novice and More Experienced

Are you frustrated by the increasing cost of fresh produce? Looking to make your home more attractive and inviting? If you would like to learn how to grow a variety of edible and ornamental plants without hours of backbreaking work or spending a fortune, then the Growing Great Gardens conference is for you!

Hosted by The Taylor Garden Club, Taylor Conservatory Foundation, and Wayne County Community College District, this event will help people with little or no gardening experience learn easy, low-cost ways to grow fresh, healthy produce, and how to beautify their home and community as well. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, at the Wayne County Community College campus located at 21000 Northline Road in Taylor.

"Growing your own food is empowering in many ways – it puts you in control of providing fresh, healthy produce for you and your family; it saves precious household budget dollars; and it provides you with a great way to relieve stress," said Patty Donahue, executive director of the Taylor Conservatory and co-chair of the event. "Nothing beats taking out your frustrations on a few weeds in the garden!"

"In light of these trying economic times," she continued. "We felt it was a good time to re-introduce people to the pleasures of vegetable gardening, and to do it in a way that it didn't break the bank."

Janice Foltin, president of the Taylor Garden Club, agrees. When club member Ken Hughes suggested that the Taylor Garden Club host the event, she strongly encouraged the club to participate. Hughes is an Advanced Master Gardener and a co-chair of the event.

"The classes available at the conference are focused on easy, practical ways to grow food, beautify your yard, and have fun, too," he said.

The conference features two prominent experts in the garden community: Janet Macunovich, professional gardener, author, teacher, and owner of Perennial Favorites; and Amanda M. Edmonds, founder of Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit that focuses on how to improve people's lives through gardening.

Classes offered will include:

- soil magic – secrets to great soil
- extending your veggie growing season
- getting started – plants for pennies
- butterfly gardening
- honeybees: the gardener's friend
- rain gardens for beginners
- bugs: the good, the bad, & the ugly
- totally terrific tomatoes

The cost of the conference is only \$20 and includes two keynote presentations, two classes, a box lunch, and a chance to win many garden-related door prizes. It is expected to sell out very quickly, so registration is required, and preregistration highly recommended. Walk-ins will be accepted on a space-available basis.

Registration forms are available online at both www.taylorconservatory.org and www.taylorgardenclub.org, as well as at the following locations: D&L Garden Center, Taylor Public Library, and Taylor Parks and Recreation. Forms may also be obtained by calling Patti Kehr at 313-292-8316.

Volunteers Wanted!

The organizers of "Growing Great Gardens" are looking for volunteers to spend two to four hours (or more!) performing a number of jobs, including greeting/directing participants, setting up and cleaning up, passing out materials in the classrooms, and taking photos and/or videos of the event. All volunteers will receive a complimentary Growing Great Gardens T-shirt.

To learn more, or to sign up, e-mail taylorconservatory@sbcglobal.com or call 734-250-3277.

Mother/Son Dance Draws Big Crowd



Nearly 60 families took part in the annual Mother/Son Valentine Dance hosted by the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation on February 9. Those who attended the event, held at Romulus High School, enjoyed refreshments (pizza, cookies, and punch) as well as music and dancing. Photo by R. E. Kadan

Sassy Seniors

For information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate center.

Romulus

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AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information, including a list of required materials/forms.

Lunch Out

The Romulus Senior Center's next "lunch out" destination will be the China Inn (Thursday, February 26, 11 a.m.).

Transportation is free. Advance registration is required.

Red Hat Society

The Romulus Senior Center's "Sassy Red Hatters" are planning an outing to the International House of Pancakes and the Red Hat Society Store on Friday, February 27. Bus will depart at 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Center.

Celebrate Fat Tuesday!

The Romulus Senior Center will be serving paczki and hot coffee from 9 to 11 a.m. on February 24.

Please call to preregister so there will be enough goodies for everyone.

Valentine Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center's Valentine Luncheon – set for noon on Tuesday, February 24 – will feature a menu of meatballs, shepherd's pie, and steamed veggies. Highlights of the event will include live music and dancing.

Cost is \$3.50 per person. Advance registration is required.

Free Health Screening

The Medical Team will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, February 23, to administer free health screenings to seniors (age 60 and older) who reside in southern and western Wayne County.

Tests will include vision, hearing, vital signs, CBC, blood cholesterol, blood sugar, urinalysis, and fecal occult blood.

Those planning to-participate should bring their physician's name, relevant health history information, a list of current medications, and (in order to receive a flu vaccination) proof of Medicare insurance.

Call for more information.

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered by the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 11 a.m.; at the Romulus Athletic Center).

Bowlers Wanted!

Seniors (age 50 and over) interested in joining a bowling league should contact the Romulus Senior Center for more info.

Taylor

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AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Ford each Thursday through April 9. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information, including a list of required materials/forms.

Homestead Tax Help

Volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will be on hand each Monday *by appointment only* to help seniors (age 65 and older) and disabled individuals prepare their Homestead Property Tax forms.

Call the Center for an appointment.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

The Ford Senior Center is planning a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Wednesday, March 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. Highlights will include snacks and music by Eddie O.

Tickets (\$7 each) must be purchased by Wednesday, March 11.

Motor City Casino

If you love to gamble, but hate the hassles of traffic and parking, this trip to the Motor City Casino is for you! A chartered bus will depart from the Ford Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, and return at approximately 4 p.m.

A cost of just \$10 includes transportation plus a \$15 voucher good for food or money. Space is limited; sign up early!

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

On Friday, March 13, the Ford Senior Center bus will travel to Little Daddy's for dinner, followed by a Young Peoples' Theatre performance of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Corner Playhouse in Southgate. The bus will depart from the Center at 5 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for admission to the show; dinner is extra. Preregistration is required.

Senior Activity Cards

The City of Taylor is offering its senior citizens (age 55 and older) a Senior Activity Card, which entitles holders to free year-round swimming at City pools, free use of the Taylor Recreation Center, and other discount services. The card – available at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) – is \$25.

For details, call 734-374-3906.

Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes pork chops, stuffed cabbage, and seafood salad.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation. ☐

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Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
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Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
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Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

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City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituary

Barbara E. Blackford

Barbara E. Blackford of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. She was 73 years old.

The daughter of the late Ezra F. and Edna Maxine (Feeney) Pulley was born in Marion, Indiana, on Monday, February 25, 1935.

Barbara loved her family and family gatherings. She enjoyed participating in festivals, and was a Romulus Pumpkin Festival volunteer.

Surviving Barbara are 2 daughters, Denise Staley (Wayne, MI) and Darlene Staley (Belleville, MI); 3 sons, Darryl Staley, James Staley, and Frank Blackford (all of Westland, MI); 11 grandchildren; 5 great-

grandchildren; a brother, Richard Pulley (Atlanta, MI); and 4 sisters, Phyllis (Donald) Kilgore (Spruce, MI), Rose (Roy) Cook (Mountain Home, ID), Mary (Chuck) Parish (Spruce), and Janet (Ray) Fisher (Spruce).

Among those who preceded her in passing were a son, Daniel Staley, and a brother, Donald Pulley.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 17, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Arthur Willis (Pentecostal missionary Baptist Church, Romulus) officiating. Cremation rites were accorded.

Memorial contributions to the family would be greatly appreciated. □

Free Youth Resource Guide Available

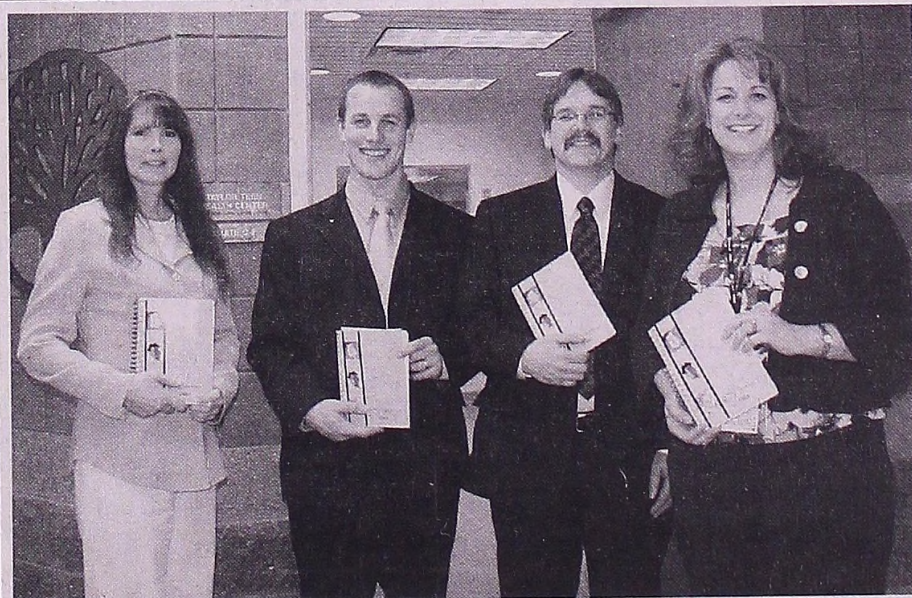
Teenagers and young adults have a new resource to help them connect with resources and options to help them transition to independence. The Southeast Michigan Youth Resource Guide is available free of charge to local youth and individuals working with them.

This 272-page resource guide is organized geographically and categorically, and covers such topics as education, basic needs, health and wellness, legal aid, parenting, and employment and training. Developed by The Information Center with funding from the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA), The Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, and the Southeast Michigan Shared Youth Vision Project, the guide includes listings for Federal, State, and Wayne County resources, as well as resources in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and St. Clair counties.

According to Edward D'Angelo, executive director of The Information Center, each individual listing includes the address, contact information, and brief description for the service offered.

"This is the most comprehensive and up-to-date listing of resources for youth in the southeastern Michigan area," D'Angelo said. "Youth and parents should be aware that it is a very valuable tool. This information could make a difference in someone's life."

The guide has already begun being distributed to local high schools and service agencies, including the Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center, which provides assistance to Taylor residents and professionals. To obtain a free copy of the guide, visit The Information Center (20500 Eureka Road, Suite 110, Taylor) or call 734-282-7171. Supplies are limited, so act soon to reserve your copy. □



Proudly displaying copies of the new Michigan Youth Resource Guide were (from left) Karen Hofmann, information and referral specialist at The Information Center; Paul Duford, workforce programs manager, Youth at SEMCA; Edward D'Angelo, executive director at The Information Center; and Christie Wilkewitz, program director at The Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center.

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